



TEAM TALK

117th Air Refueling Wing
Birmingham, Alabama



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117th Air Refueling Wing

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New Team Talk Format

The 117th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office is revamping the Team Talk. We will be posting most of the monthly articles you would normally see in the Team Talk to our public website. These articles will be located under the features section on the left hand side of the web page. Our web address is **www.117arw.af.mil**

This new format will keep you up-to-date about what is happening at the 117th throughout the month.

How will you know when these articles are uploaded? You can follow us on Facebook or Twitter. We will link the articles from our public website to these pages as soon as they are available. The web address to our Facebook and Twitter pages are:

<https://www.facebook.com/117thAirRefuelingWingPublicAffairs>

<http://twitter.com/117ARWPA>

You can also know when new articles have been uploaded by subscribing to the features RSS feed. Click the RSS icon located next to the features tab located on our home page to subscribe.



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Mission

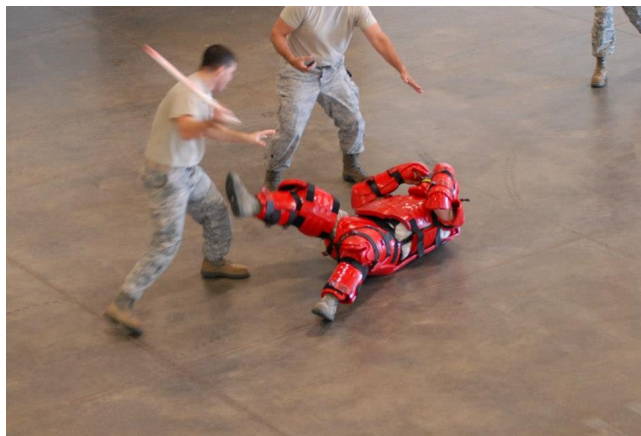
Provide quality worldwide air refueling, airlift, support, logistics, intelligence, and medical services in support of our community, state, and nation.

Vision

A world-class team of empowered men & women committed to continuous improvement and excellence, operating as the model Air National Guard unit into the twenty-first century.

Security Forces Training

Wes Jones
117 ARW Public Affairs



The Security Forces of the 117th Air Refueling Wing completed baton training during September drill. Each member practiced specific maneuvers taught by the class instructor. Security Forces members use the baton and their training in certain situations which may threaten their life or the lives of others on base.

Security Forces plays a vital role at the 117th Air Refueling Wing by keeping our airmen safe and maintaining the security of our base. It takes special airmen to do this job and we appreciate what they do to help complete the over-all mission.

TEAM TALK

Safety



National Fire Prevention Week October 7th - 13th



- * One home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010.
- * In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.
- * 62% of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- * Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires by 50%.
- * Cooking has been the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries since 1990. Unattended cooking was by far the leading cause of these fires; Two-thirds of home cooking fires began with ignition of cooking materials, including food, cooking oil, fat, or grease.
- * Cooking caused 42% of reported home fires, 15% of home fire deaths, and 37% of home fire injuries, and 11% of direct property damage from home fires in 2010.
- * Heating equipment was the leading cause of reported home fires in the 1980s and has generally ranked second since then. It is the second leading cause of home fire deaths. Fires involving heating equipment peaked in December, January and February, as do deaths from these fires.
- * The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean creosote from solid fueled heating equipment - primarily chimneys.
- * Portable or fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in 32% of home heating fires and 79% of home heating deaths.
- * Half of home heating fire deaths resulted from fires caused by heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.

Safety

- * In 2010, smoking tobacco materials started an estimated 17,500 home structure fires, resulting in 540 deaths, 1,320 injuries and \$535 million in direct property damage. Smoking tobacco materials are the leading cause of home fire deaths.
- * Sleep was a factor in two of every five home smoking tobacco fire deaths. Possible alcohol impairment was reported in one quarter of these deaths.
- * In recent years, Canada and the United States have required that all cigarettes sold must be "fire safe," that is have reduced ignition strength and less likely to start fires.
- * Half of home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment. Other leading types of equipment were washer or dryer, fan, portable or stationary space heater, air conditioning equipment, water heater and range.
- * In 2010, electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in an estimated 46,500 home structure fires resulting in 420 deaths, 1,520 injuries and \$1.5 billion in property damage.
- * On average, there are 35 home candle fires reported per day in the US. More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.
- * In 2010, candles caused 3% of home fires, 4% of home fire deaths, 6% of home fire injuries and 5% of direct property damage from home fires.



Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter



The 117th Air Refueling Wing would like to congratulate Staff Sgt. Blake A. Akers for being recognized as the 117 ARW Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter of the Junior NCO category. Akers, a native of Hueytown, Ala., is a Radio Frequency Transmission Systems manager, assigned to the 117th Communications Squadron. He entered the Air Force at the age of 24 after graduating from Herzing University with a Bachelor's degree in Technology Management. Before joining the military, he was an operations supervisor at Teletech, Fairfield. During his time on active duty, he was stationed at Kapaun Air Station, Germany. While serving there he was active in his community and dedicated to duty. He served as the 460th Booster Club President, organized collection points to create care packages for deployed personnel, and sponsored several in-bound Airmen.

Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter

Akers remained committed to his education as an Airman while working for Air Force Space Command, while sacrificing sleep and family time while working 12-hour shifts, he completed his CCAF in Communications Electronics and earned his Master's in Business Administration from the on-base University of Phoenix campus at Ramstein AFB. After three and a half years experiencing the German culture, Akers chose to return home to Alabama and joined the 117th Communications Flight in September 2009. He was welcomed with open arms and quickly went to work taking on multiple additional duties in preparation for the upcoming UCI. The following March, SSgt Akers was hired as a full-time IT Specialist and immediately took up several projects such as the Windows Vista migration. He also joined EANGUS and has maintained an active membership since then. He participated in multiple Veterans Day parades and encouraged his peers to volunteer within the community. He was a charter member of the Rapid Augmentation Team (RAT) and responded to the April's fury tornado relief. During this effort, he acted as the primary communications specialist on the team. He ensured radio communications with the various patrols and between the team commander and state headquarters. He also expanded into non-traditional duties such as traffic control, maintaining the peace, and providing first aid.

In 2011, he was selected to cross-train into the new 3D1X3 career field which combined Satellite/Wideband systems with Ground Radio. He acted as class leader and mentored junior ranking Airmen. He achieved a score of 94% in the IT Fundamentals course and 92% in RF Transmission Systems. This training allowed him to become the resident subject matter expert on the new PRC/117-G radio system, which is used extensively in support of the flying mission and within the new POCKET-J communications console which supports the Eastern Area Defense System and NORAD.

After tech school, he continued his commitment to lifetime learning by enrolling in the Economics program at Oregon State University. He has already completed 1/3 of the courses required to complete his 2nd bachelor's degree. He also reaffirmed his commitment to volunteerism and the 117th community by joining the Enlisted Advisory Council. He provided radio support for the Dreams on Wings event and worked throughout the day with event organizers. Currently, he is engaged in the Inside Plant Project, and works tirelessly to upgrade the base network infrastructure to support Gigabit data rates. He credits his discipline and strong work ethic to his military training and the Air Force core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do.

2012 Whaley Memorial Golf Tournament



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2012 Whaley Memorial Golf Tournament



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Announcements

117 ARW Outstanding Airman of the Quarter for the SNCO Category

CMSgt Mickey R. Phillips
117 ARW Command Chief



It is my distinct pleasure to announce SMSgt Shawanda Moore, of the 117th Force Support Squadron, as the 117 ARW Outstanding Airman of the Quarter for the SNCO Category (MSgt-CMSgt), July-September 2012. Please congratulate SMSgt Moore on winning this award against extremely talented competition.

117 ARW Social Media Corner



<https://www.facebook.com/117thAirRefuelingWingPublicAffairs>

<http://twitter.com/117ARWPA>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/117thARW>

Unit Public Affairs Representatives

The 117th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office is looking for service members who are interested in working with the media, photography, videography or writing. If you are interested in learning more about the UPAR program, please e-mail

Jonathan.Russell@ang.af.mil

Tell Us Your Story

The 117 ARW Public Affairs office is looking for stories from your deployment experiences. We are accepting stories in writing along with pictures and video of deployments. We are also interesting in interviewing service members who would like to share their deployment experiences with us. For more information contact 117ARW.Public.Affairs@ang.af.mil

Announcements

PROMOTIONS



Senior Master Sergeant
Jesse T. Popee Jr.

Master Sergeant
Jefferie K. Grayson
Gregory W. Price
Phillip A. Thrasher

Technical Sergeant
Robert K. Crawford
Stentsen D. Ellenburg
Brandon L. Hood
James W. Parker

Staff Sergeant
Nathaniel D. Brown
Zachary J. Earnest
Daniel L. Johnson

Senior Airman
Lashonda S. Cole
Jovaris Smith
Jacob T. Thomas
Stephanique S. Watkins

Airman First Class
Tatiana M. Cookingham

CONDOLENCES

CMSgt (Ret) Perry Shaw passed away on September 19, 2012. Shaw was a 38 year veteran of the 117th Air Refueling Wing and was assigned to the Intelligence Squadron (formally the 117th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron).

MSgt (Ret) Chuck Santarlas passed away on October 20, 2012. Santarlas was a full-time crew chief for the 117th Air Refueling Wing. He previously worked in the engine shop and was a veteran of the Vietnam War.



The TEAM TALK is an authorized publication for members of the 117th Air Refueling Wing, Alabama Air National Guard.

Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 117 ARW Public Affairs Editorial Staff.

The Team Talk staff continues to take submissions for articles via e-mail and is counting on units to highlight their missions through their stories. E-mail submissions to our staff at 117ARW.Public.Affairs@ang.af.mil.

All submissions are due by COB Sunday UTA for publication.

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